

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on July 13, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over WO 01/24224 (Boonekamp) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,227 (Dierks). Further, claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Boonekamp in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,109,181 (Fischer). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25 are patentable over Boonekamp, Dierks and Fischer for at least the following reasons.

Upon close inspection, it appears that Boonekamp shows in FIG 1B a light source 12, such as "a (spiral-shaped) tungsten incandescent body." (Page 8, line 31) See also see page 9, line 28: "incandescent body as the light source 12."

The tungsten incandescent body 12 of FIG 1B is in a lamp vessel or burner 11 filled with halogen containing gas, as recited

on page 9, lines 28-30. As shown in FIG 1B and recited on page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 2, the outer surface of the Boonekamp lamp vessel or burner 11 has a light-absorbing medium 16, where an interference film 15 is applied to the light-absorbing medium 16. Page 10, line 8 further recites that the Boonekamp lamp vessel or burner 11 is mounted in an outer bulb 14. As clearly shown in FIG 1B, the outer bulb 14 includes no coatings or films.

Dierks is directed to a short-arc discharge lamp having a discharge vessel or burner 2, as shown in FIG 1. As shown in FIG 1A and recited on column 6, lines 47-51, the inner surface of the Dierks discharge vessel or burner 2 has an absorbing layer 2b, and the outer surface of the Dierks burner 2 has a multi-layer interference filter 2a covered by an additional absorbing layer 2c.

It should be noted that Dierks does not even disclose or suggest an outer envelope, where the Boonekamp outer envelope or bulb 14 has no coatings or films. Thus, at best, the combination of Boonekamp and Dierks teaches a burner with various coating and an outer envelope with NO coating.

Fischer shows in FIG 2 a high pressure discharge lamp having an outer envelope 15 "coated on the inner side with an interference

filter 16." (Column 3, line 39)

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 15, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein the outer bulb comprises at least one light-absorbing means and at least one interference filter.

These features are nowhere taught or suggested in Boonekamp, Dierks, Fischer, and combination thereof.

Further, the present invention as recited in independent claim 25, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

a burner having a discharge space ...  
a gas filling in the discharge space;  
an outer bulb surrounding the burner;  
a first light-absorbing coating located on an outer surface of the outer bulb;  
an interference filter located on the first light-absorbing coating; and  
a second light-absorbing coating located on an inner surface of the outer bulb.

An outer bulb, which surrounds a burner (having a discharge space) and includes two light-absorbing coatings and an interference filter, is nowhere taught or suggested in Boonekamp,

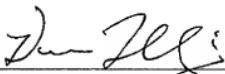
Dierks, and Fischer, alone or in combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 15 and 25 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-14 and 16-24 should also be allowed based at least on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 15.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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